CHURCH HISTORY

Chapter 31 - The Church in England Continues to Ferment, 1558-1689

1. *The Reformation in England Is Prolonged*
    a. *the Reformation in England was more political than religious, and stressed organization more than doctrine*
2. *The Influence of Calvin Is Felt*
    a. *The Elizabethan Settlement of 1563 did not settle the affairs of the Church in England.*
    b. *the Puritans came out as result of the political nature of the reformation in England; they wanted purification as taught by Calvin*
3. *The Puritans Desire to Reform the Church of England*
    a. *The Puritans wished to see installed in every parish an earnest and spiritually minded pastor able to preach. They demanded the abolition of the clerical dress then in vogue, of kneeling at the Lord's Supper, of the ring ceremony at weddings, and of the use of the sign of the cross at baptism.*
    b. *They wished to see in each parish elders chosen to exercise discipline. They wished to have the ministers chosen by the people and the office of bishop abolished. All ministers, they believed, should be on an equal footing. This amounted to a demand for the* Presbyterian *form of church government in place of the* Episcopalian
    c. *The leader of the Puritan movement was Thomas Cartwright*
4. *The Separatists Leave the Church of England*
    a. *The Separatists saw that the process of reforming the Episcopal Church of England from within would at best be long and tedious, if not entirely hopeless. They therefore separated themselves from the Church of England and became known as Separatists or Dissenters*
    b. *Because they believed that all local churches should be independent of each other, they were called Congregationalists or Independents*
    c. *Those American colonists who established the Plymouth Colony in 1620 were Separatists and were called Pilgrims; Those who came nine years later and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony were Puritans*
5. *The Puritans Gain the Upper Hand*
    a. *For almost forty years after the death of Queen Elizabeth the Puritans were oppressed and persecuted. But in the "Long Parliament" which met in 1640 the Presbyterian Puritans finally found themselves in the majority; The two chief oppressors of the Puritans – the Earl of Strafford and Archbishop Laud – were brought to trial, condemned, and executed by beheading*
    b. *King Charles did not like the turn of events The Westminster Assembly and seize on a charge of high treason the five members of Parliament but The House of Commons refused to give them up; The king resolved to use military force to compel Parliament to submit - he plunged England into civil war*
    c. *On the King's side, the Cavaliers; while on the side of Parliament called the Roundheads*
    d. *Oliver Cromwell, a member of the Parliament defeated the cavaliers and the King surrendered and condemned to death on January 30, 1649*
    e. *His regiment became famous as Cromwell's Ironsides. It was never defeated. It was composed entirely of "men of religion." They did not swear or drink. They advanced to the charge singing psalms. An army of twenty-one thousand men, patterned after the Ironsides, was organized. It was called the New Model. It was a body of religious enthusiasts such as the world had not seen since the days of the Crusades. Most of the soldiers of this army were fervent, God-fearing, psalm singing Puritans. When not fighting they studied the Bible, prayed, and sang hymns*
6. *The Westminster Assembly*
    a. *During the war, Parliament set itself the task of making changes in the Church. In 1643 it abolished the episcopal form of church government. It called an assembly of one hundred twenty-one clergymen and thirty laymen to provide a new creed and form of church government. This Westminster Assembly contained a few Episcopalians and Congregationalists, but the overwhelming majority were Presbyterian Puritans.*
    b. *The Assembly drew up the confession which has become famous as the* Westminster Confession.
7. *Puritan Domination Ends*
    a. *Under Cromwell's rule there was a large measure of religious liberty for all religious bodies, especially for all Nonconformists and Dissenters.*
8. *The Restoration*
    a. *On September 3, 1658, Cromwell died. His son Richard could not fill his father's shoes. The great mass of the English people were dissatisfied under the yoke of rigid Puritanism, and the son of Charles I was brought back to England and crowned king as Charles II. This return of the House of Stuart to the throne of England is known as the Restoration of 1660.*
    b. *The Scottish Parliament vied with that of England in persecution of the Dissenters.*
    c. *Among the multitude who suffered in England for the sake of their faith was a poor tinker named John Bunyan - While lingering in that jail for twelve years he wrote his famous* Pilgrim's Progress.
    d. *Another Puritan, a man of high rank, excellent education, and rare gifts, was John Milton. In blindness, loneliness, and poverty he wrote* Paradise Lost, *the great Christian epic poem.*
9. *William and Mary*
    a. *Accompanied by an army he crossed the sea from Holland in 1688 and drove out his father-in- law, James II. He and Mary were crowned king and queen of England.*
    b. *As a result of his brave and determined stand William had saved Holland, England, and America for Protestantism and liberty against the Catholicism and despotism of Louis XIV of France and James II of England.*
10. *England Enjoys a Measure of Toleration*
    a. *When William and Mary were crowned king and queen of England; The Dissenters- Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Baptists, and Quakers-formed about one- tenth of the population of England at this time.*